Smuggling of contraband

2579. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of major contrabands seized during 1990 to 1993;

(b) persons prosecuted under COFEPOSA; and

(c) steps taken to check smuggling of contrabands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b). Details of major contrabands seized under the Customs Act 1962 during 1990 to 1993 are given below:

Details of contrabands	1990 (Value in Rs. Lakhs)	1991 (Value in Rs. lakhs)	1992 (Value in Rs. lakhs)	1993 (upto July, 93) (Value in Rs. lakhs)
Gold	19235	13002	12645	2339
Silver	14956	13329	13125	2333
Electronic goods	2345	5625	2572	2229
Foreign Currency	339	1324	1352	921
Dangerous drugs	2513	2189	2039	509
Synthetic fabric	528	277	310	91
Vehicles/Vessels	16989	17888	5421	347

Number of persons detained under COFEPOSA Act, 1974 are as follows :

Year	No. of persons detained
1990	749
1991	751
1992	428
1993 (upto June, 1993)	152

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert against smuggling activities. Customs formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, fire arms etc. and the requirements are constantly reviewed. Equipments such as baggage X-ray machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly utilised. Close co-ordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Liberalisation of trade

2580. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Minister has communicated to the World Bank that Government will further liberalise Trade and Investment;

(b) if so, whether the reform process will be extended to other important sectors of our economy such as Agriculture, Power, etc., and

(c) if so, what are the details of reforms that will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b): Yes Sir. The process of economic reforms initiated by the Government in 1991, is a continous one aimed at modernising our economy and putting it on the path of sustained growth. The reforms will cover all critical areas of the economy including trade, investment, financial system, tax structure, agriculture and infrastructure especially power.

(c): In the agriculture sector, the broad strategy of the Government for reform is to increase investment, strengthen technology dissemination and improve the performance and reach of irrigation fecilities. At the same time, the agricultural credit system will be revitalised to enable increase in capital formation and productivity. In the power sector, the thrust of the reform strategy is to improve the efficiency of the State Electricity Boards, reduce transmission and distribution losses and mobilise resources including private sector participation, to meet the power generation target of Eighth Plan.

Pension scheme for Bank Employees

2581. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of pension scheme for bank employees as on the 30th June, 1993;

(b) whether any negotiations have taken place between Government Management and Union Association of Bank Employee on pension issue;

(c) what criteria have been fixed for implementation of Pension Scheme for Banking Sector;

(d) what is the number of employees entitled for pension and family pension scheme;

(e) what would be the expenditure per annum; and

(f) what is the number of retired bank employees who are eligible for pension in each State as on 31st May, 1993;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED). (a) Bank Employees are generally entitled to Contributory Provident Fund and Gratuity as retirement benefits. However, due to historical reasons the pension is also available to eligible employees in State Bank of India, Allahabad Bank and State Bank of Hyderabad.

(b) to (h) Service conditions of the award staff (clerical and subordinate caders) in the public sector banks are governed by industrial awards and bipartite settlements signed from time to time. The bipartite settlements are signed by the Indian Banks' Association (on behalf of banks' managements) and the representatives of the majority employees associations. The pension as a second retiral benefits in lieu of CPF as offered by the IBA to the bank employees unions is broadly on the lines as it is available to government employees and will be compulsory for the employees joining the banks after the Scheme if accepted, becomes effective. The existing employees may, however, have the option either to avail of pensionary benefits or continue to avail the existing benefits, viz; Contributory Provident Fund and Gratuity.

The pension scheme will be in lieu of CPF which is at present 10 per cent of the basic pay of the employees The banks contribution towards CPF and interest thereon, standing in the credit of the employees Opting for pension will from the corpus of the pension Fund. As